



THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF
SURVEYORS

28 April 2006

Univ-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel
President
The International Federation of Surveyors
FIG Office
Lindevangs Alle 4
DK-2000 Frederiksberg
Denmark

By post & email

Dear President Magel,

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineering Surveyors application to become a member of FIG

I refer to your letter of 6 February 2006 on the above subject.

The 5th Meeting of FIG Forum-HKSAR was held in 22 March 2005 and the notes of meeting were sent to your Office on 8 April 2005. The meeting was attended by 15 participants but with no one coming from HKInstES despite an invitation being sent to the Institute and an announcement of the meeting was made in one English and one Chinese newspaper.

In the meeting participants were in general satisfied with the various channels provided by our Institute to disseminate information about FIG and to convey or answer their questions about FIG. And the main interest expressed was the progress in processing the application for HKIS Land Surveying Division Technical Associate membership. Our Institute undertook to process the applications received expeditiously and to get back to the applicants as soon as possible.

As to-date about 180 applications have been received and 34 of which have been approved as Technical Associate of HKIS, while other applications are still under various stages of the technical competence vetting process.

Of those approved applicants, we do not have information regarding whether they are also members of the HKInstES, because membership of other organizations is not a mandatory piece of information to be provided by the applicants. Indeed, the successful admission into our Institute does not necessarily mean an individual will have to withdraw or resign from any of his/her other organizations thereby reducing the membership of any such organizations. Individuals can have multiple memberships as they like.

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I wish to give you more up-to-date information about our Institute. The Technical Associate membership, which was created in 2003 has been receiving overwhelming response from those technical surveying practitioners and their submitted applications are being processed expeditiously with many of them having already been admitted while others are under vetting of their fulfillment of the requirements. The creation of this technical grade of membership has marked the full embracement of all levels of surveying practitioners, both professional and technical, into our Institute. Application to become a member of our Institute is open to all who meet the respective admission requirement.

Also in 2005, a new division, Property & Facility Management Division, was created in the Institute, with that our Institute has further expanded our professional services in building and land management. May I reiterate that engineering surveying is only amongst one of the specialized subjects in the Land Surveying Division.

Our Institute has been established under a specific law of Hong Kong and is the only institute of professional surveyors here. Professional membership of our Institute is the recognized local qualification for registration under the Surveyors Registration Ordinance (Cap. 417) in Hong Kong which confirms the registrants having attained the professional standard to practice surveying in Hong Kong. Our Institute is recognized by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the community at large as the professional surveyors institute for the provision of professional surveying services and expertise advice.

All in all, our Institute is a leading regional professional institute in Hong Kong, and it embraces all levels of surveying practitioners and all types of surveying services including engineering surveying. Therefore, we do not see any need, and indeed any justification, to have another organization, such as HKInstES, to represent engineering surveying in Hong Kong. We are of the view that if HKInstES were admitted as FIG member association, this would cause a lot of confusion in the land and construction industry and in the community of Hong Kong, not to mention the embarrassment to FIG and even frustration to professional practitioners in Hong Kong.

We therefore would like to urge you to seriously consider the application of HKInstES for becoming a member association of FIG and make a prompt and discreet decision under your prerogative in order to avert any unpredictable outcome which neither FIG nor our Institute would like to see.

Yours sincerely,

Wong Chung Hang
President